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Letter dated 1 March 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to Ambassador Olof Skoog's letter of 25 January 2017, I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Security Council have agreed to send a mission to the countries of the Lake Chad basin — Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria — during the period from 1 to 7 March 2017. They have also agreed on the terms of reference of the mission (see annex).

I will be leading the mission with Ambassador François Delattre (France) and Ambassador Fodé Seck (Senegal).

Following consultations with the members, it has been agreed that the composition of the mission will be as follows:

Ambassador René Ernesto Fernández Revollo (Bolivia (Plurinational State of))
Mr. Shen Bo (China)
Ambassador Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta (Egypt)
Ambassador Tekeda Alemu (Ethiopia)
Ambassador François Delattre (France)
Mr. Alexis Lamek (France)
Ambassador Inigo Lambertini (Italy)
Ambassador Yoshifumi Okamura (Japan)
Ambassador Kairat Umarov (Kazakhstan)
Ambassador Fodé Seck (Senegal)
Ambassador Carl Orrenius Skau (Sweden)
Mr. Yuriy Vitrenko (Ukraine)
Ambassador Matthew Rycroft (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Ambassador Michele Sison (United States of America)
Ambassador Luis Homero Bermúdez Álvarez (Uruguay)

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**
President of the Security Council

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Annex

Terms of reference of the Security Council mission to the Lake Chad basin

1. The Security Council will carry out its mission to the countries of the Lake Chad basin — Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria — in the context of the presidential statements of 19 January 2015 (S/PRST/2015/4), 28 July 2015 (S/PRST/2015/14), 13 May 2016 (S/PRST/2016/7) and 20 January 2017 (S/PRST/2017/2) and in line with the letters dated 29 December 2016 (S/2016/1129) and 21 July 2015 (S/2015/555) from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General.

2. The terms of reference of the mission are the following:

Security

(a) To assess the security situation in the countries of the Lake Chad basin, namely Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, in particular the threat posed by the terrorist groups Boko Haram and Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh), and the potential impact on the wider region;

(b) To commend Governments in the region on their efforts, including through the Multinational Joint Task Force, and the advances made to combat Boko Haram; to encourage the Member States participating in the Task Force to further enhance regional military cooperation and coordination, building on the conclusions of the second Regional Security Summit, held in May 2016, and in particular to consolidate military gains, strengthen cooperation and confidence-building with civilians, deny safe haven to all factions of Boko Haram and disrupt its links with other transnational and transregional terrorist groups; and to underscore how such efforts enable humanitarian access and facilitate the restoration of State authority and the rule of law in liberated areas;

(c) To receive briefings from the Governments in the region on their assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken to combat the threats, their current strategies and their predicted challenges and recommendations for further strengthening; to encourage the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States, in coordination with the African Union, to accelerate current joint efforts to combat the threat posed by Boko Haram and to adopt a common strategy that addresses the drivers of the conflict; and to stress the need for Member States in the Lake Chad basin region to complement the regional military and security operations against Boko Haram and ISIL with national and regional efforts, with the assistance of bilateral partners and multilateral organizations;

(d) To express deep concern about the deadly attacks continuing to be perpetrated by Boko Haram and ISIL, most recently in Borno State, targeting civilians on 28 January and the Nigerian military on 25 January;

(e) To emphasize the need for enhanced protection of civilians, in particular for internally displaced persons, and for an end to sexual exploitation and abuse in camps for internally displaced persons; and to stress that those responsible for all

violations of international humanitarian law and abuses and violations of human rights must be held accountable and brought to justice;

(f) To acknowledge that women and girls are particularly targeted by Boko Haram and ISIL and to welcome the recent escape or release of 23 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from Chibok in 2014; to encourage the continuing efforts to release the 197 girls remaining in captivity and all those abducted by Boko Haram during the conflict; to call upon all State and non-State actors to prevent and/or cease the abduction, recruitment and use and detention of children in violation of international law; to stress that it is important for the authorities to provide all survivors of abduction and sexual violence with rapid access to appropriate services and community reintegration to prevent the stigmatization of former captives or their children and to protect them from persecution or vigilante action; and to ensure that efforts are made to respond to reports of sexual exploitation and abuse of women in camps for internally displaced persons;

(g) To stress that any measures taken to counter terrorism, including by government forces and civilian joint task forces, must comply with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, and to call for accountability for those responsible for violations or abuses; to commend the Abuja Action Statement of June 2016 and inquire about its implementation; to express regret at the tragic incident in Rann, north-east Nigeria, on 17 January, which resulted in the death of numerous civilians, including aid workers, and to urge swift action to improve the protection of civilians, including through action on the findings of the investigation being conducted by the Nigerian authorities; and to commend the Government of Nigeria on its rapid call for an investigation into the sexual abuse and exploitation of internally displaced people in camps and to inquire about outcomes and next steps to address the matter;

(h) To highlight the need to increase the number of women in the police and the military so as to improve access to information and the protection of women and girls, especially in the light of the increased use of female suicide bombers;

(i) To address the connection between terrorist activities in the region and other transnational organized criminal activities and trafficking in all forms;

(j) To receive briefings from Governments in the region on their conflict prevention efforts, with the support of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel and the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, and to emphasize the support of the Security Council for those efforts;

Humanitarian

(k) To reiterate deep concern at the dire humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad basin region, to welcome recent reports of United Nations humanitarian organizations regarding improved access and delivery of aid to some affected populations, to urge Governments in the region to further facilitate humanitarian access, including in terms of bureaucratic and administrative procedures, for humanitarian organizations, and to promote collaboration with United Nations partners with the aim of developing and implementing viable and sustainable

options for delivering aid, including through more effective civilian-military coordination mechanisms;

(l) To receive updated information and briefings from government and humanitarian actors on the food security situation in the region, with a particular focus on the hardest-hit areas, as well as on suggested targeted measures to improve the situation that Governments, supported by the international community, could take in the short and medium terms;

(m) To meet displaced persons and study areas for targeted international support/mobilization for humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development and human rights protection, and to urge Governments in the region, donors and relevant international non-governmental organizations to urgently further scale up their efforts in the region and ensure close coordination of their efforts, including by promoting and enabling safe access to populations in need, improving living conditions in host communities, enhancing food security and increasing livelihood opportunities;

(n) To receive briefings from United Nations country teams and representatives of humanitarian organizations on their contribution to a coordinated international response to the emergency and early recovery, such as increasing synergies between humanitarian and development actors to promote sustainable solutions in support of the Governments of the region, and to encourage strong United Nations leadership that involves cross-border coordination, increased capacity and the development of multi-year, prioritized plans based on gender-sensitive programming;

(o) To receive briefings on current population movements, including displacement and return linked to the Boko Haram and ISIL conflict, to urge the authorities to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and ensure that any returns, both cross-border and internal, are voluntary, safe and dignified, and to encourage the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon to finalize, in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a tripartite agreement solidifying their commitment to those principles;

Root causes

(p) To underscore the critical importance of a holistic approach to addressing the underlying drivers of the conflict and to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, which includes enhanced efforts to improve governance, economic growth and education in affected areas, especially among young people, in cooperation with religious and other leaders;

(q) To stress the need for Governments in the region, with the assistance of partners, to consolidate the rule of law and strengthen efforts to tackle corruption, facilitate stabilization efforts, reconstruction and development, ensure a transition to civilian-led delivery of security and justice, prevent the illicit trafficking of weapons to armed groups, as well as any other form of illicit trafficking, protect human rights and promote gender equality and women's empowerment;

(r) To receive briefings from the Governments in the region and United Nations country teams on the impact of climate and ecological changes, including desertification, land degradation and drought, on the humanitarian and security

situation and long-term stability and development prospects in the region, and their role in exacerbating the traditional drivers of conflict;

(s) To assess and promote the contribution of civil society in the region, particularly youth and women's organizations, to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and humanitarian efforts, to assess the effectiveness of the partnerships between Governments in the region and civil society in those areas, and to interact with civil society, including women's organizations, in the field;

(t) To encourage relevant Governments in the region to collaborate with the United Nations in the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel in order to address the underlying root causes of instability and conflict in the region;

Women's participation

(u) To affirm the vital role of women, including women in civil society, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacebuilding and deradicalization efforts, to request an update on Governments' efforts to ensure the full and equal participation of women at all decision-making levels within national institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and to encourage Governments in the region and the United Nations to ensure the participation and leadership of women and women's organizations in developing strategies to counter Boko Haram and ISIL, stabilize the region and enable reconstruction and recovery;

Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and deradicalization

(v) To encourage Governments in the region to develop a common approach to address defections and detentions relating to Boko Haram, including prosecutorial, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies and the transfer of detainees among affected countries, bearing in mind the need for due process, transparency and compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law; to underline the need to pay particular attention to the treatment and reintegration of women and children associated with this terrorist group, including the rapid handover of children to the appropriate agencies; and to call upon the Governments of the region to provide protection actors with access to all detention centres holding children in order to address their well-being and protection needs;

(w) To highlight the importance of regional disarmament, demobilization and reintegration for persons associated with Boko Haram, including defectors and detainees, as well as for the Civilian Joint Task Force and other vigilante and community-based security groups, with a component to address the specific protection needs of women and children, as a vital element of the transition from conflict to development, to enable community reconciliation and reintegration and to underpin the success of post-conflict stabilization efforts, and to encourage Governments in the region to invest in mechanisms for screening and processing persons associated with Boko Haram, including former enablers, fighters and commanders, dependants, displaced persons, detainees and other meaningful groups, into relevant categories to facilitate subsequent steps in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and other relevant processes,

(x) To discuss the reintegration programme established by the authorities in the Niger, which includes the setting up of dedicated camps for ex-militants while maintaining a balance to combat impunity and equally prioritizing community sensitization efforts, and to encourage all Governments in the region to begin actively preparing communities for the return of persons associated with Boko Haram as the number of defectors and returnees continues to grow throughout the region.